Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 079911 TOSEC 030026
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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM TRATTNER

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.), SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, MARCH 28, 1978

1. ONLY ITEM WORTH CALLING YOUR ATTENTION TO (AND WHICH YOU MAY KNOW OF FROM OTHER DEPARTMENT SOURCES) IS ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRIP OF DEPSEC CHRISTOPHER TO TURKEY, WEST GERMANY AND BRITAIN ACCOMPANIED BY NIMETZ AND VEST. I SAID THEY WILL MEET WITH ECEVIT TO DISCUSS NATO AND BILATERAL MATTERS AND ECONOMIC ISSUES, AND CONSULT ON ALLIANCE ISSUES WITH SENIOR FRG AND UK OFFICIALS. EXPECTED RETURN WASHINGTON AT END OF WEEK.

2. YOU MAY SEE REUTERS STORY ALLEGING US TO HAVE SAID ANK-ARA TALKS WILL "CENTER ON" DCA, AND IN BONN AND LONDON WILL "CENTER ON" NATO AND ECONOMIC ISSUES. NOTHING OF THE KIND WAS IN FACT SAID; GUTMAN HAS BEEN PROPERLY CHEWED. I DID ALLOW THAT CYPRUS MIGHT COME UP IN ANKARA, AND MONETARY
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MATTERS IN BONN AND LONDON. TO QUESTION WHETHER NEUTRON BOMB WOULD BE DISCUSSED, I STUCK TO LANGUAGE OF ANNOUNCEMENT.

3. REASON FOR ANNOUNCING CHRISTOPHER TRIP (AS OPPOSED TO WAITING FOR IT TO BREAK NATURALLY) WAS OUR FEELING THAT DE-LAY IN MAKING TRIP KNOWN WOULD OPEN US TO CHARGES OF KEEPING IMPORTANT AND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION FROM PRESS. CHRIS

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AGREED (BY PHONE FROM ANKARA) AND ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE. COOPER

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